

March 30, 1976

It was most thoughtful of you to have kept me in mind for advice about the trust you are planning to establish.

There are a number of ways you could proceed that could maximize your confidence in the ways your trust funds will be used. You might, for example, wish to get more birds with the same stone by selecting institutions or investigators that you wish to help at the same time that you further research progress on the problems of glycogen storage disease. If you do not have a personal attachment to another university, however, I hope you might consider our own department as a beneficiary. Federal funding of health research has become highly precarious, and during the recent inflationary stress, our budget in real dollar value has declined almost 30%. This works a particular hardship on the younger research fellows and graduate students, support for whom is dying up rapidly.

May I urge, however, that whomever you choose as beneficiary, you should broaden the scientific framework of your trust. Glycogen storage disease is representative of a wider range of genetic diseases of metabolism. Scientific knowledge is a fabric, not a single thread, and one cannot sensibly separate progress on one specific disease from ~~advances~~ <sup>advances</sup> on other similar genetic problems. (Historically, we would have no understanding of glycogen storage disease at all except for Cori's previous work on the breakdown of starch and sugars). Genetic disease of metabolism does form a natural category of research effort. In addition, I am sure that any responsible investigator you ultimately support with funds so identified will be especially attentive to leads that would more immediately be pertinent to glycogen storage.

Should we continue this discussion by phone conversation? I think I can give you advice that responds to your own stated needs, without intruding with our own research program more than you ask to hear. If you wish, then please call me at your convenience at (415)497-5801.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr